Washington, DC -- Congressman Vern Buchanan announced today that he will hold a congressional forum next week for small businesses.

"Small businesses play an important role in creating jobs and growing the economy," said Buchanan. "This event will provide them with information on how to start, sustain and grow their businesses. We also welcome feedback on how the federal government can better serve the small business community."

The U.S. Small Business Administration's North Florida District Director Wilfredo Gonzalez, U.S. Department of Commerce International Trade Specialist Sandra Campbell, Sun Trust Bank Southwest Florida Assistant Vice President Business Banking Relationship Manager Jared Hawkins, and Florida Business Development Corp Vice President Bill Habermeyer will participate in the event. Furthermore, volunteers from the Manasota SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives) program will be available for individual counseling.

The meeting will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on Friday, May 29 at the Dan McClure Auditorium, 5900 Airport Auditorium Lane, Sarasota, Florida.

There is no fee for the event, but space is limited. Please rsvp by calling 941.951.6643.

Buchanan is a member of the House Small Business Committee and the vice chairman of the Subcommittee on Finance and Taxes.